

GREEN. COOL!

INDIANA'S GREEN COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR, SOUTH BEND CONTINUES TO FIND CREATIVE WAYS TO REDUCE ENERGY USAGE, TRIM COSTS, BEAUTIFY THE CITY AND HELP SAVE THE PLANET.



THINKING GLOBALLY. ACTING LOCALLY.

South Bend's comprehensive 20-year City Plan envisions that by the year 2025, "We are proud stewards of the natural environment, preserving the St. Joseph River as a valuable resource and cherishing our parks and plentiful green spaces."

The City already has taken significant steps toward this vision through its efforts for greater efficiency in government services, such as:

CONSERVATION

A field of sunflowers highlights efforts to plant native grasses and wildflowers on City lots and in retention basins to reduce mowing. A flower bed in historic Leeper Park is part of a biofiltration system to resolve chronic sewer-odor problems. The installation of anti-idling technology and route-optimization software will conserve fuel for our City fleet. Police and code inspectors patrol by bicycle. Converting 227 traffic signals to energy-efficient LEDs from incandescent bulbs is saving nearly \$2 million in energy costs in a decade and reducing nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide by 85 percent. Maintaining lushly landscaped neighborhoods, South Bend's healthy urban forest has resulted in a Tree City USA designation since 1997. City-owned Potawatomi Zoo takes an active role in preserving some of the world's most endangered species, while the City's parks department has created a natural resources management policy to safeguard the area's distinctive environmental features, such as the 160-acre Rum Village forest, one of the few old-growth mixed deciduous urban forests left in the country.

RECYCLING

Biweekly curbside recycling began in 1999, while a household hazardous waste collection center has operated since the mid-1980s. City crews collect yard waste and leaves, creating compost and mulch that's free to city residents at the Organic Resource Facility (saving \$284,000 in landfill costs in the process). The City reuses biosolids generated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, applying them as fertilizer on area farmland.



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RECLAMATION

Landfills were transformed into the Erskine Commons shopping center and Fredrickson Park, an environmental-learning area with a regional Boy Scout facility. Restoring the city's most impaired waterway, Bowman Creek, will turn a troubled site into a beautiful asset. With Indiana's most aggressive brownfield reclamation effort, South Bend is turning the former Studebaker corridor into Ignition Park, offering prime real estate for high-tech businesses to commercialize and manufacture products. The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant is working to maximize the production and use of biogas to dramatically reduce its carbon footprint and save utility costs. Volunteers organized more than 25 community gardens in South Bend, and efforts are under way to launch a Keep South Bend Beautiful organization.

HIGH-TECH INNOVATION

A collaborative pilot project has demonstrated that the University of Notre Dame's high-speed research computers contribute significant, beneficial heat to the City's greenhouse and conservatories. Full-scale implementation of this project will meet most of the heating requirements for the Conservatory, reduce Notre Dame's cooling costs and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions for both parties. The project was made possible because of a connection to the St. Joe Valley Metronet, which allows the placement of computing centers in locations where waste heat can be used. In Ignition Park, Transpo's maintenance facility, the nation's first LEED Platinum transit facility, would provide base cooling capacity in a similar heat exchange with Data Realty's data center.

LEADING THE WORLD

South Bend is becoming the world's first city to monitor and control combined sewer overflows (CSOs) with computerized sensors and motorized controls. Based on research from the University of Notre Dame and Purdue University, a local start-up, EmNet, has deployed 105 wireless sensors and nine "smart valves" with motorized controls as part of CSOnet. A \$6-million investment, CSOnet could save the City a projected \$130 million in avoided capital costs.

SMART GROWTH/NEW URBANISM

Eddy Street Commons, a \$215-million mixed-use development, embraces new urbanism with land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open spaces and create walking communities. This 25-acre, high-density development uses one-third the land of a comparable suburban development.

FUTURE VISION

A Green Ribbon Commission, established in 2009 following the Cool Cities designation, has proposed policies to reduce energy costs and consumption, and recommended sustainable operating practices for adoption by city government, private businesses and local citizens. The City is installing a 45-kilowatt hydroelectric turbine at the Century Center dam and plans to install a 1.78-megawatt hydro unit in the near future. Energy-savings performance contracts initiated by the City will dramatically reduce power consumption in municipal buildings. Studies of South Bend's busiest intersections will lead to optimization of traffic signal timing to reduce engine idling, fuel consumption and carbon-monoxide emissions.

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